

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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R 281324Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8573

INFRO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

EUCOM

CINUSAFE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 2514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: NINE DEMOCRATIC PARTY DEPUTIES RESIGN

REF: ANKARA 2453

1. NINE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) DEPUTIES PRESENTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS TO PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL SUKAN MID-MORNING MARCH 28. THE NINE DEPUTIES INCLUDE SADETTIN BILGIC, WHO HAS BEEN THE LEADER OF THE DISSIDENT FACTION WITHIN THE DP, AS WELL AS NILUFER GURSOY (DAUGHTER OF EX-PRESIDENT BAYAR) AND MUTLU MENDERES (SON OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER MENDERES). BILGIC TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE NINE DEPUTIES WERE RESIGNING FROM THE DP IN ORDER TO "SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS." IN A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED LATER, THE NINE DEPUTIES COMMITTED THEMSELVES

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TO "SUPPORT WITH THEIR VOTES A GOVERNMENT FORMED OUTSIDE OF THE

REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF AN ELECTED PARLIAMENTARIAN."

2. COMMENT: THE RESIGNATION OF THE DP DISSIDENTS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH TO DATE IN THE MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS. WITHOUT QUESTION TURKEY IS NOW CLOSER TO FORMING A GOVERNMENT THAN IT HAS BEEN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. BUT WHILE THE ODDS NOW FAVOR DEMIREL'S BEING ABLE TO COME TO POWER AS THE LEADER OF A CENTER-RIGHT GOVERNMENT, THIS CURRENT EFFORT COULD STILL COME A CROPPER. OBTAINING AGREEMENT AMONG PROSPECTIVE COALITION PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL (I.E., THE COALITION'S PLATFORM OR POLICY STATEMENT) AND GETTING THEIR AGREEMENT AS TO WHICH COALITION PARTNERS GET WHAT POSITION IN THE CABINET COULD STILL UNDERMINE THIS EFFORT AS IT GOES INTO FINAL STAGES, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SMALLEST OF DEFECTIONS COULD PLACE DEMIREL ONCE AGAIN SHORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY HE WILL REQUIRE.

3. FOR OUR VIEWS ON IMPLICATIONS FOR USG INTERESTS OF THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT, ADDRESSES MAY WISH TO REFER TO REFTTEL.

MACOMBER

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